

MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION

Quarterly Report on Admissions and Releases in the Massachusetts Department of Correction

First Quarter 2015





Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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Executive Office of Public Safety and Security

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Trend Period: Fourth Quarter 2012 through First Quarter 2015

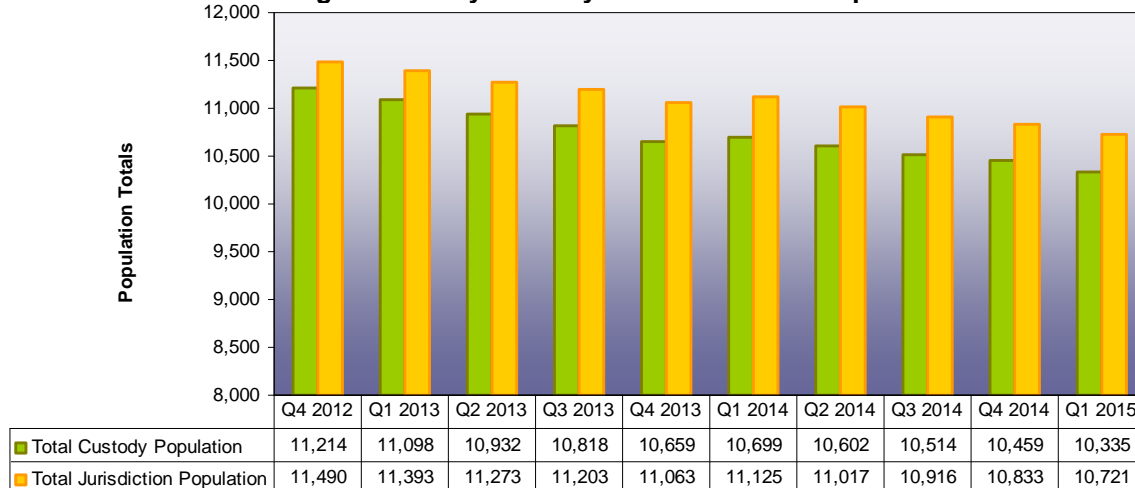
- From the population trend height in the fourth quarter of 2012, there were eight quarters of decrease with cumulative declines of 7.4% (879) in the **custody population** and 6.7% (769) in the **jurisdiction population**.
- From the height of the total jurisdiction population in the fourth quarter of 2012, **criminally sentenced** jurisdiction inmates were down by 6.0% and **civil commitments** were down by 11.2% during the first quarter of 2015.
- In the first quarter of 2015, active **pre-trial detainees** were at their lowest population of the trend period at 616, down 16.3% from their height in the third quarter of 2013 when they were at 736.
- During the ten-quarter trend period, starting in the fourth quarter of 2012, the **quarterly admissions** averaged 2,536 inmates and the average **quarterly releases** were 2,645 inmates, with the cumulative difference between admissions and releases resulting in a decrease of 1,092 inmates.
- The overall **difference between admissions and releases** over the trend period resulted in **female** inmates decreasing by 87, while **male** inmates saw a decrease of 1,005 inmates.
- Based on the difference between admissions and releases, **criminally sentenced inmates** saw a cumulative decrease of 894 inmates. The second quarter of 2013 had the largest impact on this trend with a decrease of 154 inmates.
- During the trend period, **male criminally sentenced** inmates saw an average quarterly difference decrease of 86 inmates, and **female criminally sentenced** inmates had an average decrease of 3 inmates.
- **Male civil commitments** saw a cumulative difference decrease of 88 inmates during the past ten quarters. **Female civil commitments** saw a cumulative decrease of 17 inmates over that same period.
- **Pre-trial detainees** saw increased numbers in both admissions and releases during the trend period until the fourth quarter of 2014, when there was a notable drop in both trends. This drop continued into the first quarter of 2015.
- While **male pre-trial detainees** saw little change, **Female pre-trial detainees** in the fourth quarter of 2014 saw a sharp decline in admissions from the previous quarter as female detainees from Worcester County shifted from the MA DOC to the Western Massachusetts Regional Women's Correctional Center.

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CURRENT POPULATION AND OVERALL TRENDS

Over the ten-quarter trend period from the fourth quarter of 2012 through the first quarter of 2015 (Graph 1.1) there was a downward trend resulting in a cumulative decrease of 879 (7.8%) from the **MA DOC custody population*** and 769 (6.7%) from the **jurisdiction population**. This corresponded to an average quarterly loss of 1.2% from the custody population and 1.1% from the jurisdiction population. The largest quarterly drop occurred during the fourth quarter of 2012, mostly due to implementation of the 2012 Crime Bill and issues regarding accuracy of testing at the Hinton Crime Lab. The only increase seen during the trend period was during the first quarter of 2014, with an increase of 0.4% of the custody population and 0.6% of the jurisdiction population.

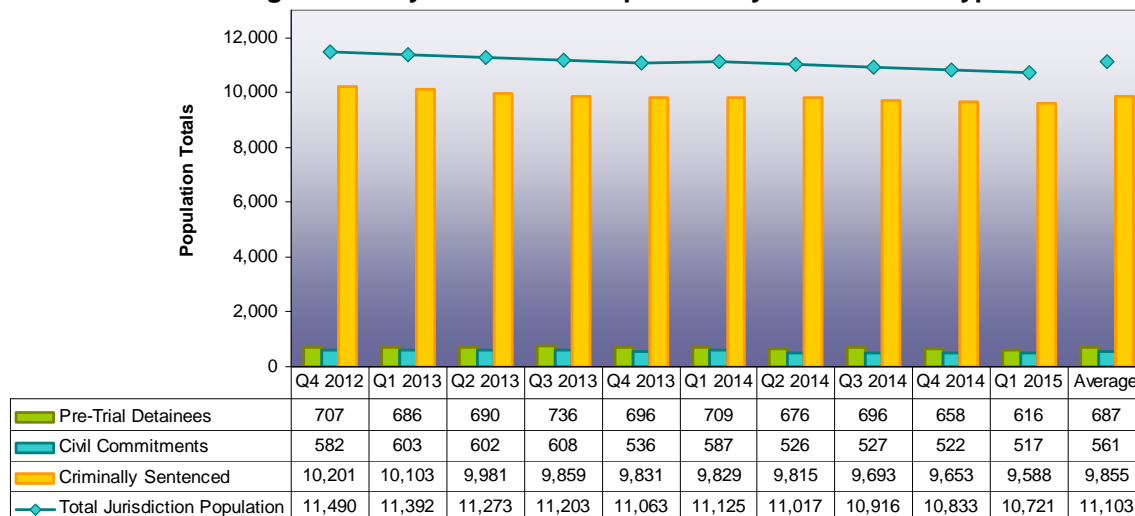
1.1 Average* Quarterly Custody and Jurisdiction Population



*Each quarter's population is the average of the three months within that quarter.

Graph 1.2 shows the breakdown of the quarterly jurisdiction population by commitment type. **Criminally sentenced** inmates over the trend period saw a decline each quarter with a total decrease in population of 613 (6.0%) inmates. For the same period, **Civil commitments** had a more variable trend, but with an overall greater rate of decrease resulting in a decline of 65 (11.2%) commitments. **Pre-trial detainees** saw a decrease over the trend period by 91 (12.9%) detainees, and were at their lowest count for the trend period.

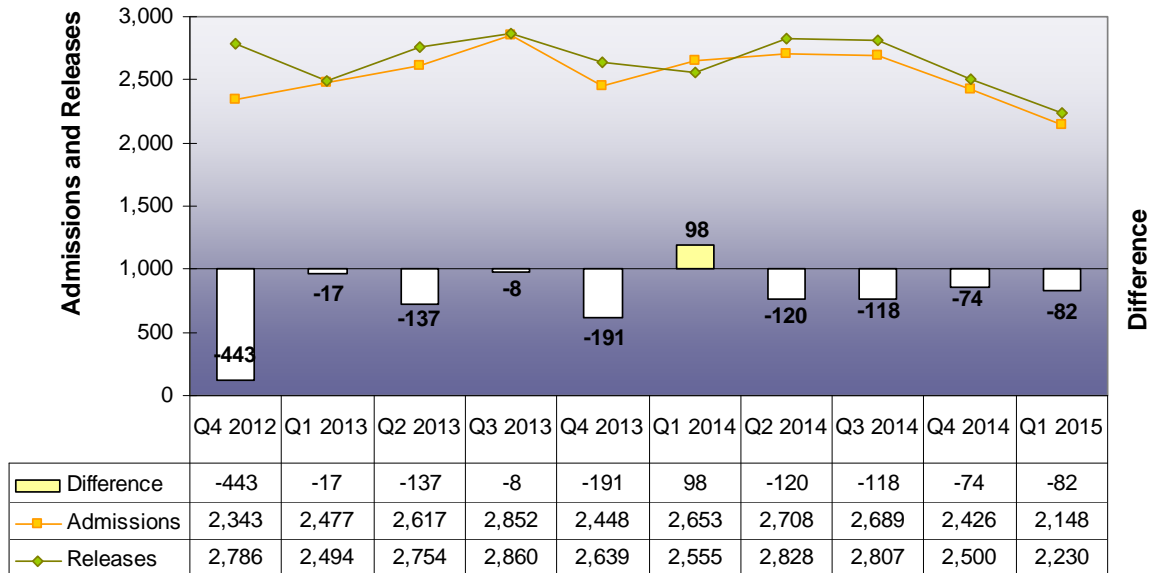
1.2 Average Quarterly Jurisdiction Population by Commitment Type



* **Bolded** phrases are defined in the appendix.

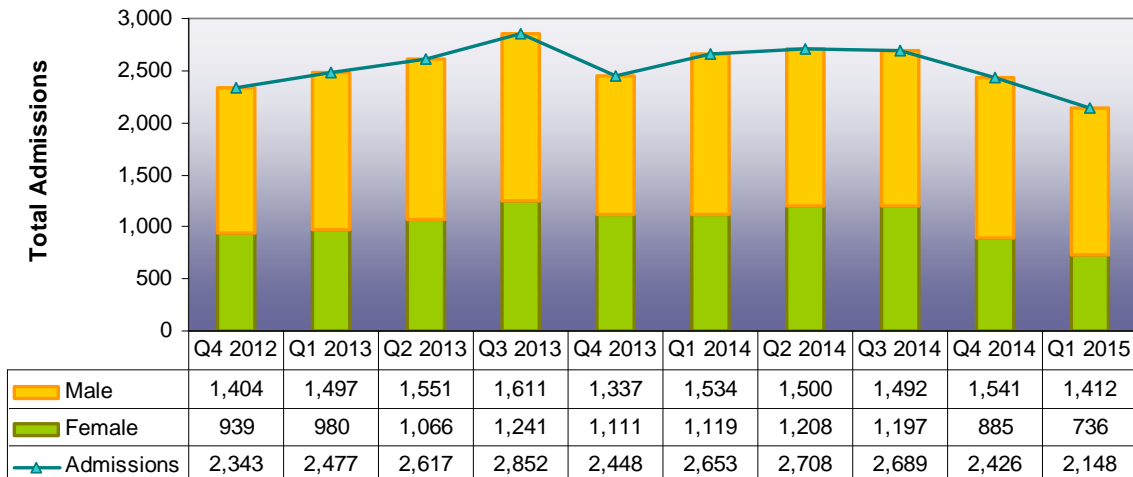
Over the past ten quarters (Graph 1.3), the difference between the MA DOC **admissions** and **releases** resulted in an average difference decrease of 109 inmates per quarter with admissions averaging 2,536 inmates per quarter and releases averaging 2,645. There is strong seasonality present in the trend, with both admissions and releases tending to rise over each year before seeing a decrease each fourth quarter; the first quarter of 2015 was a notable exception to this trend. Over the trend period, total releases saw a negative trend, averaging a decrease of 2.2% each quarter, whereas admissions saw little overall change, despite a similar average decrease of 1.9% per quarter.

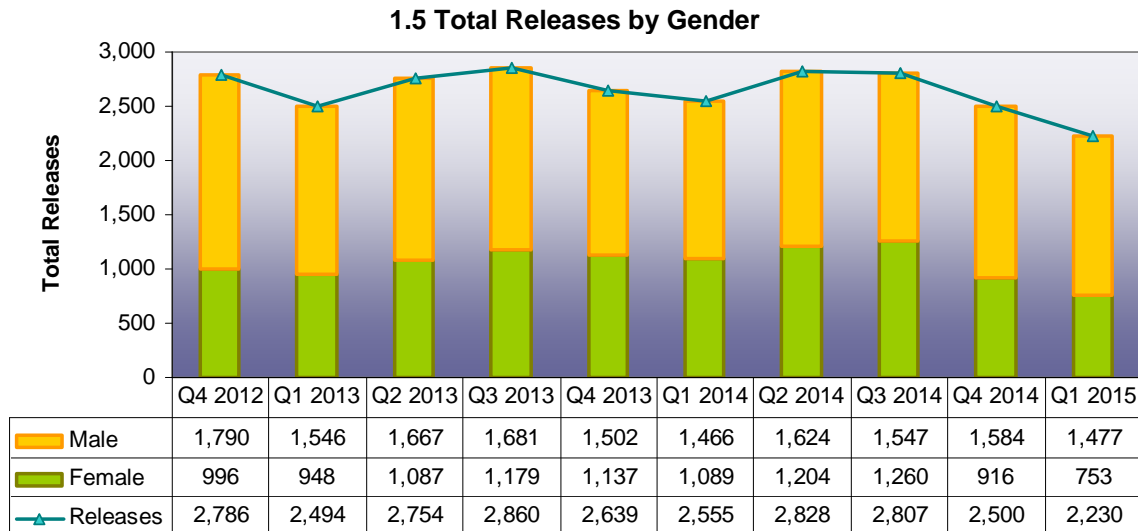
1.3 Overall Admissions and Releases



Throughout the trend period, males accounted for 58.7% of the total admission (Graph 1.4) and 60.1% of total releases (Graph 1.5, on next page). Over most of the trend period, female inmates saw a gradual increase in the percent of both admissions and releases until the fourth quarter of 2014 female admissions decreased by 26.1% and releases decreased by 27.3% to their lowest levels of the trend period; the first quarter of 2015 saw a continuation of this trend. For male inmates, the difference between admissions and releases had an average decrease of 101 inmates per quarter; for female inmates the difference resulted in an average decrease of 9 inmates each quarter throughout the period.

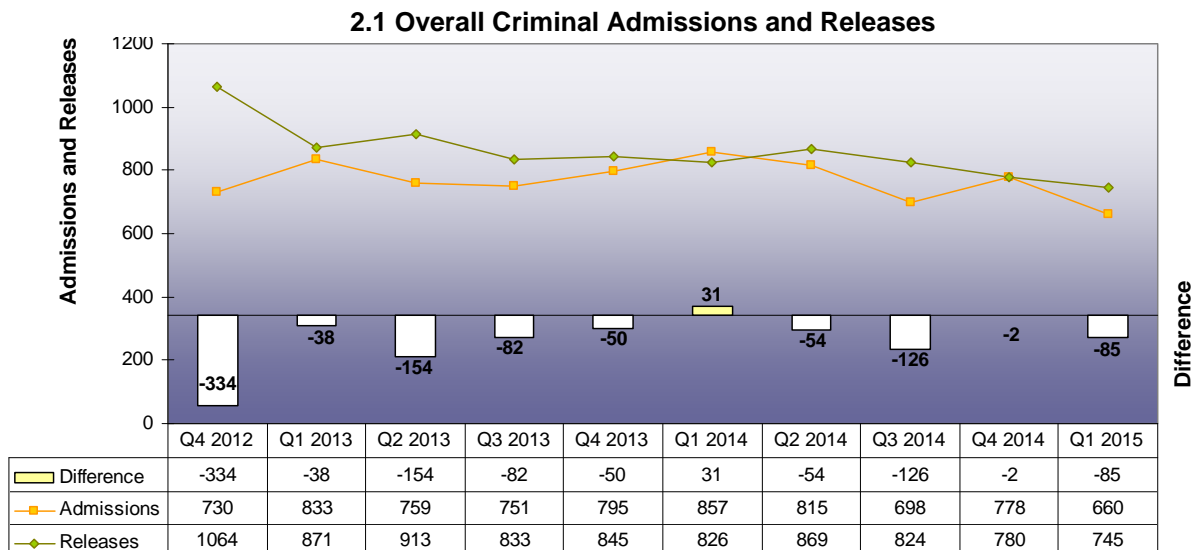
1.4 Total Admissions by Gender



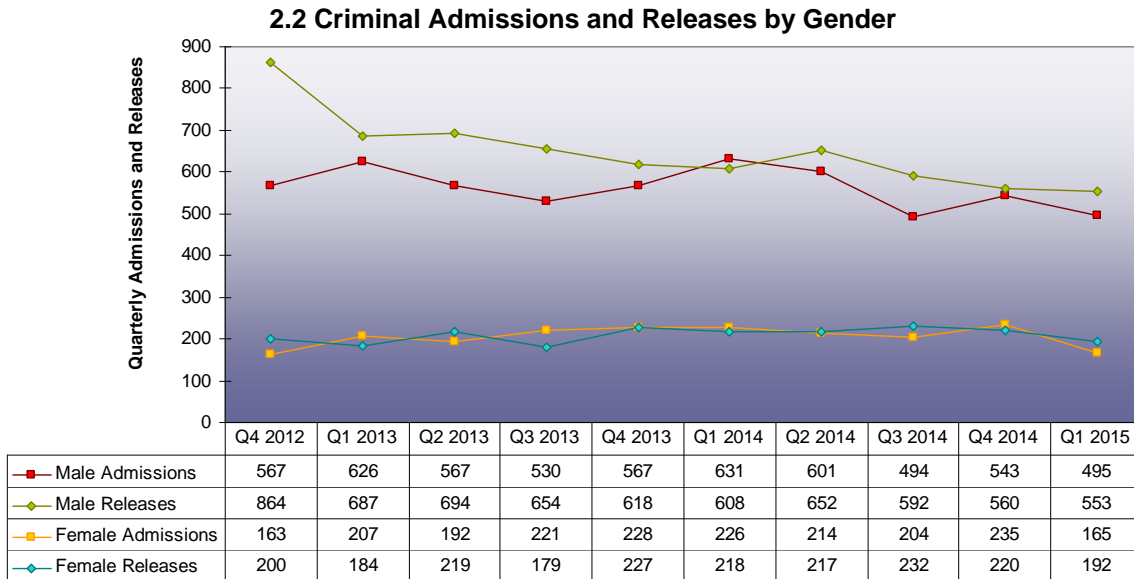


CRIMINALLY SENTENCED ADMISSIONS AND RELEASES

Criminal admissions and releases for the ten-quarter trend period from the fourth quarter of 2012 through the first quarter of 2015 are displayed in Graph 2.1, below. Over the trend period, criminal admissions and releases both saw negative trends, with criminal admissions having a slight downward trend, while criminal releases displayed a strong negative trend. On average, each quarter saw 768 admissions and 857 releases. Based on the difference between admissions and releases, there resulted an average decrease of 89 criminally sentenced inmates each quarter. The first quarter of 2015, when compared to the fourth quarter of 2014, saw the largest decrease in admissions, by 15.2%; releases also saw a decrease, by 4.5%.

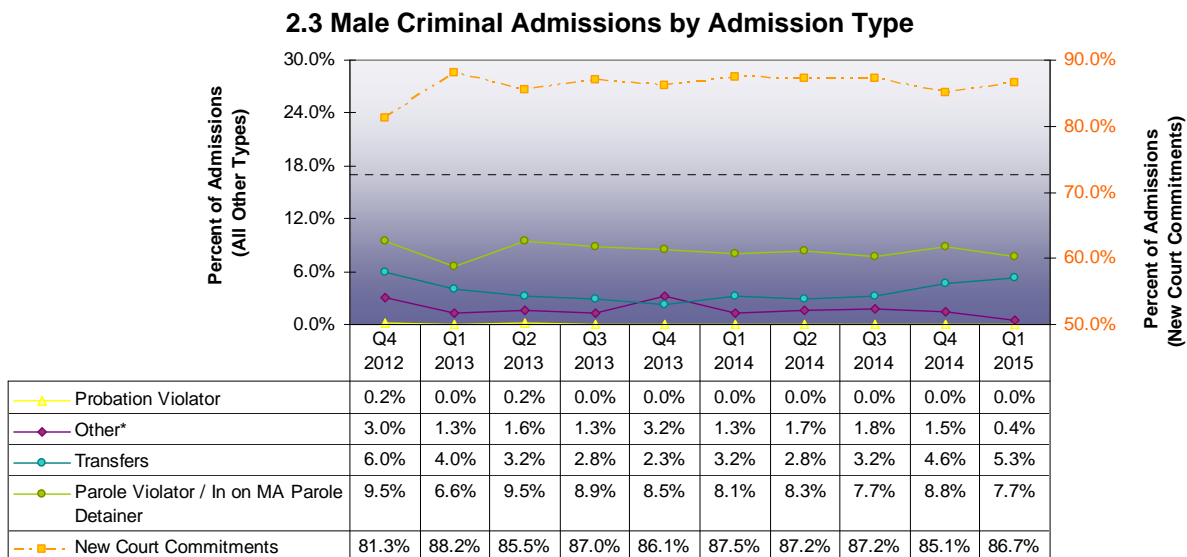


Graph 2.2, below, shows criminal sentenced jurisdiction admissions and releases by sex. During the ten-quarter trend period, male criminally sentenced inmates saw overall negative trends very similar to the overall criminally sentenced population, with a stronger downward release trend than admission trend. This was expected as male inmates comprised 73.2% of criminal admissions and 75.6% of criminal releases. Over the trend period, female criminally sentenced releases saw a slight positive trends while admissions were generally steady overall.



Male criminal admissions by admission type, shown in Graph 2.3, are split into two axes, with 'New Court Commitments' represented on the right axis and all other admission types represented on the left axis. New court commitments were the most common type of male admission and accounted for 86.2% of male criminal admissions. The next two most common types of male admissions, 'Parole Violator/ Detainer' and 'Transfers', averaged 8.4% and 3.7%, respectively, of admissions during the trend period.

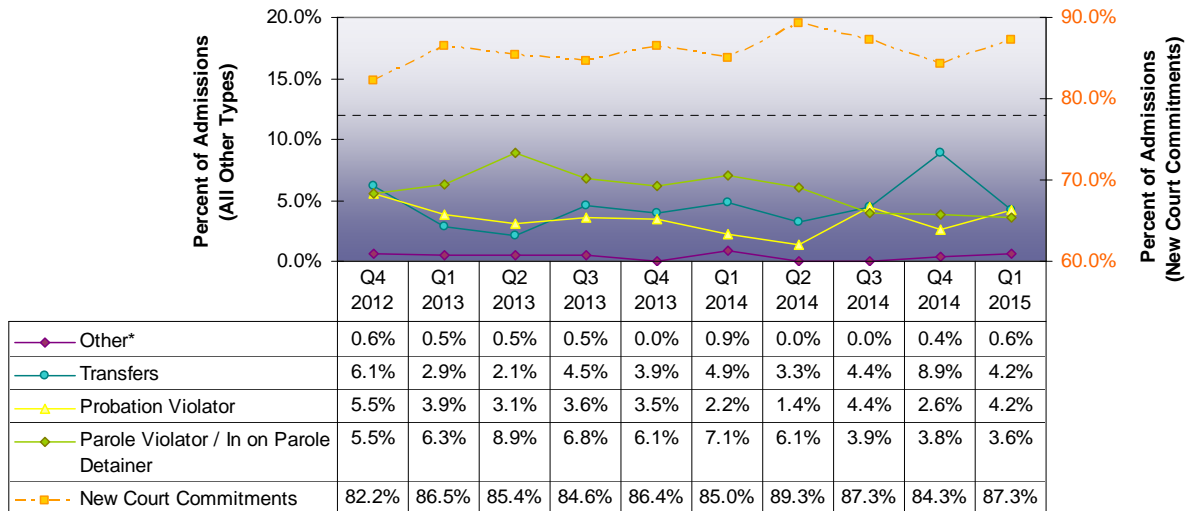
Over the trend period, new court commitments remained mostly steady after a jump subsequent to the fourth quarter of 2012. This shift was countered by a drop in parole violators/detainers and transfers.



*See Appendix for definition of "Other" under "Admissions".

Female criminally sentenced admissions, as seen in Graph 2.4, were predominately, 'new court commitments' over the trend period, with an average of 85.8% of admissions per quarter; followed by 'parole violator/detainers' and 'transfers', with averages of 5.8% and 4.5%, respectively. Female admissions saw an upward trend in new court commitments, with 'parole violators / in on parole detainer' showing the strongest decline over the trend period. During the fourth quarter of 2014 female criminally sentenced transfer admissions saw a peak, with 8.9% of admissions for the quarter – around double the average transfer rate. This was due to a one-time intake of county inmates from Barnstable County due to security upgrades at their House of Correction.

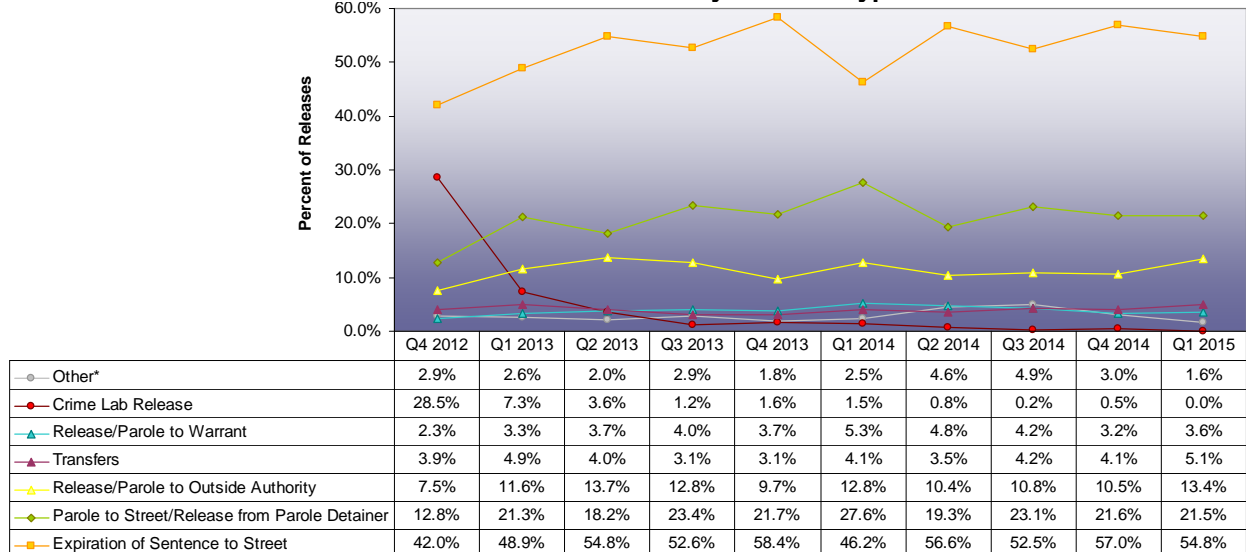
2.4 Female Criminal Admissions by Admission Type



*See Appendix for definition of "Other" under "Admissions".

Graph 2.5 shows male criminal releases by release type. Releases to the street due to **expiration of sentences** was the most common release type, constituting 52.8% of the male releases for the trend period; the second most common release type was 'parole to the street/release from parole detainer', with 20.6% of male criminal releases. Overall, releases to the street due to expiration of sentence and paroles to the street / releases from parole detainers saw upward trends over the ten-quarter period.

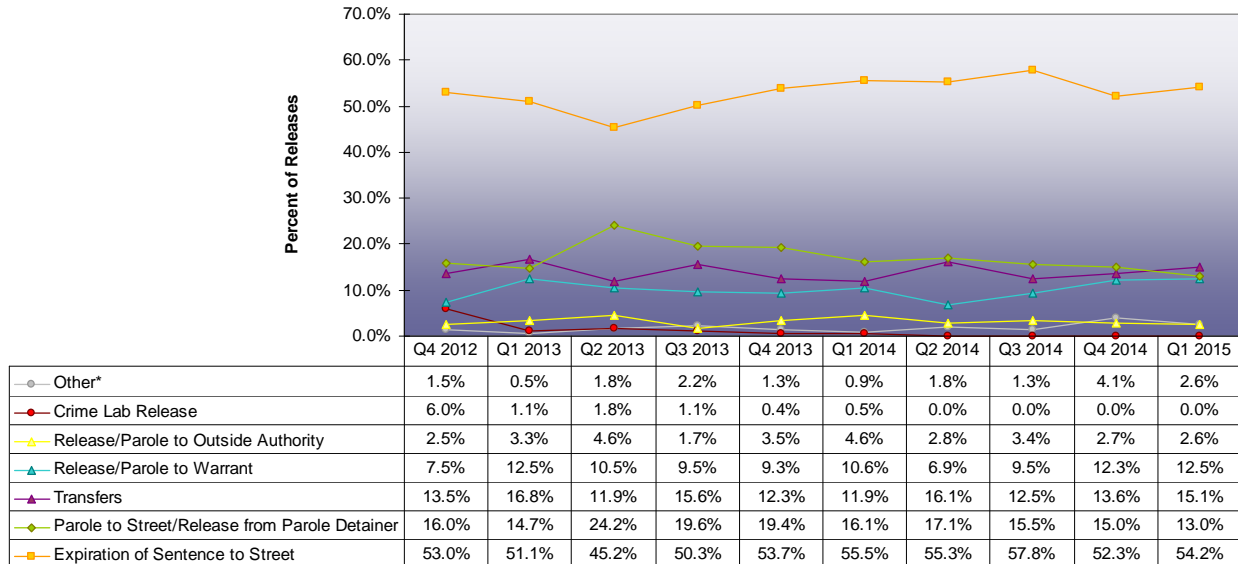
2.5 Male Criminal Releases by Release Type



*See Appendix for definition of "Other" under Parole (Releases).

As seen in Graph 2.6, female criminally sentenced releases were most commonly due to 'expiration of sentence to the street', averaging 52.9% each quarter. The next two most common release types were 'parole to street/release from parole detainer', averaging 17.1%, and 'transfers', averaging 13.8%. Over the trend period 'expiration of sentence to the street' had the strongest upward trend, while 'parole to street/release from parole detainer' saw the strongest downward trend.

2.6 Female Criminal Releases by Release Type



*See Appendix for definition of "Other" under Parole (Releases).

Over the trend period, Suffolk County accounted for 19.6% of the criminal new court commitments, followed by Essex (12.9%), Bristol (12.3%), Middlesex (12.1%), Worcester (12.1%), and Hampden (11.5%). For the first quarter of 2015, Hampden County had the greatest number of state, criminally sentenced inmates. Table 2.7 displays additional information pertaining to criminally sentenced new court commitments by sentencing jurisdiction.

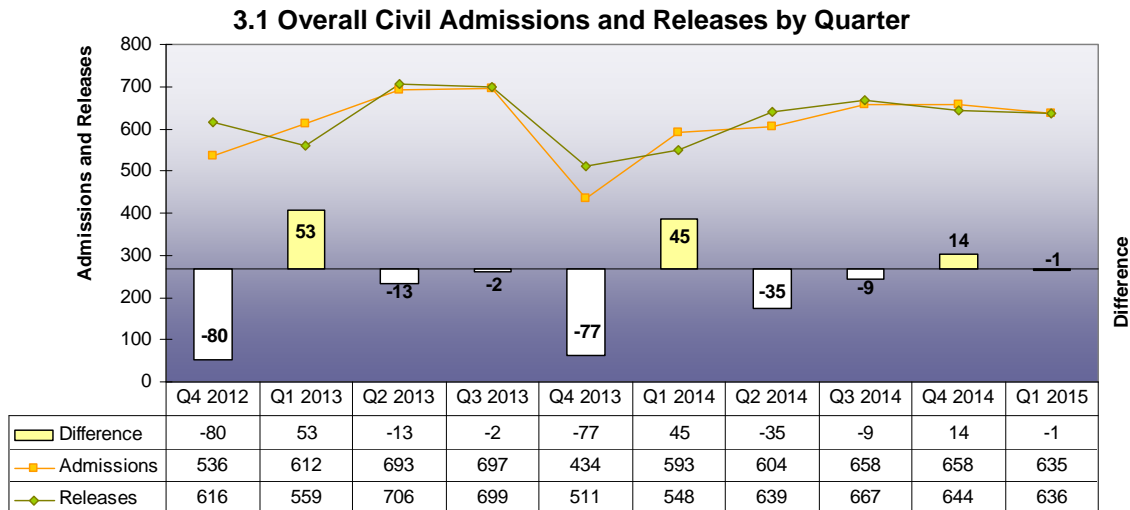
2.7 State* Criminally Sentenced New Court Commitments by Court Jurisdiction

	Q4 2012	Q1 2013	Q2 2013	Q3 2013	Q4 2013	Q1 2014	Q2 2014	Q3 2014	Q4 2014	Q1 2015	Tot
Suffolk	83	95	119	85	111	114	119	77	103	61	967
Essex	52	75	60	56	87	60	74	55	59	62	640
Bristol	73	66	57	66	49	61	71	60	63	42	608
Middlesex	53	62	57	61	68	63	70	56	66	42	598
Worcester	78	65	71	59	63	56	56	50	52	47	597
Hampden	67	63	49	47	63	63	47	43	40	85	567
Plymouth	19	60	18	18	20	66	41	25	23	46	336
Norfolk	15	30	23	28	20	25	12	36	32	19	240
Barnstable	9	17	13	21	11	10	13	22	8	14	138
Berkshire	9	17	9	15	6	14	3	15	13	11	112
Franklin	2	11	6	8	3	13	8	3	5	7	66
Hampshire	9	5	5	6	1	8	5	4	9	7	59
Dukes	4	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	10
Nantucket	0	0	1	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	5
	473	567	489	473	502	554	522	446	474	443	4943

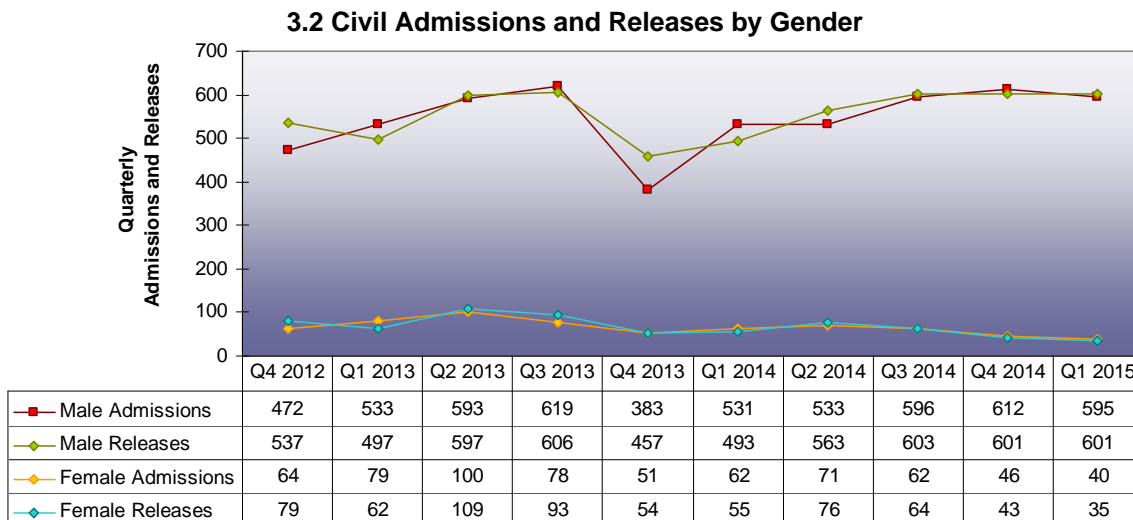
*Excludes county, federal, and out-of-state inmates.

CIVILLY COMMITTED ADMISSIONS AND RELEASES

Both quarterly admissions and releases for civilly committed inmates had similar patterns throughout the trend period, as seen in Graph 3.1. Despite a notable rise and fall during 2013, the overall trend for both civil admissions and releases remained steady. The difference between admissions and releases for the trend period resulted in a cumulative difference decrease of 105 inmates. Generally, civil admissions display a seasonal trend with a gradual rise over each year with a precipitous drop during the fourth quarter; however, the fourth quarter of 2014 and first quarter of 2015 did not see much shift in the number of civil admissions or releases resulting in a relatively flat trend for the past four quarters.

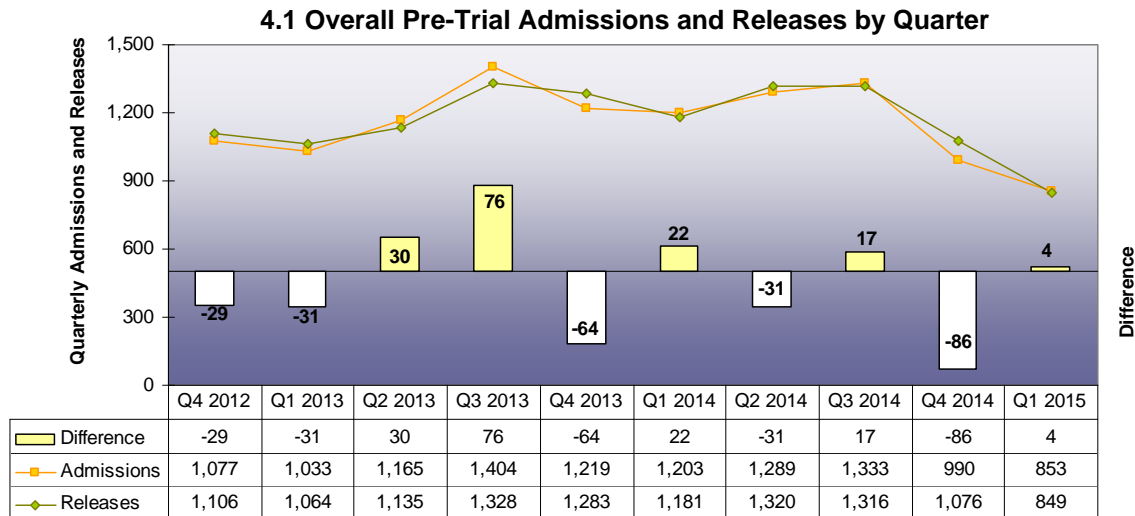


Over the past ten quarters, female inmates made up 10.7% of both civil admissions and releases. Male civilly committed inmates saw little overall change in admissions and releases for the trend period outside of seasonal patterns. Of note, the fourth quarter of 2014 not showing a sharp drop in admissions and releases present in prior years. By contrast, female civil commitments saw strong negative trends in their admissions and releases for the trend period, particularly since the fourth quarter of 2014. Overall, there were difference decreases of 17 female civil commitments and 88 male civil commitments.

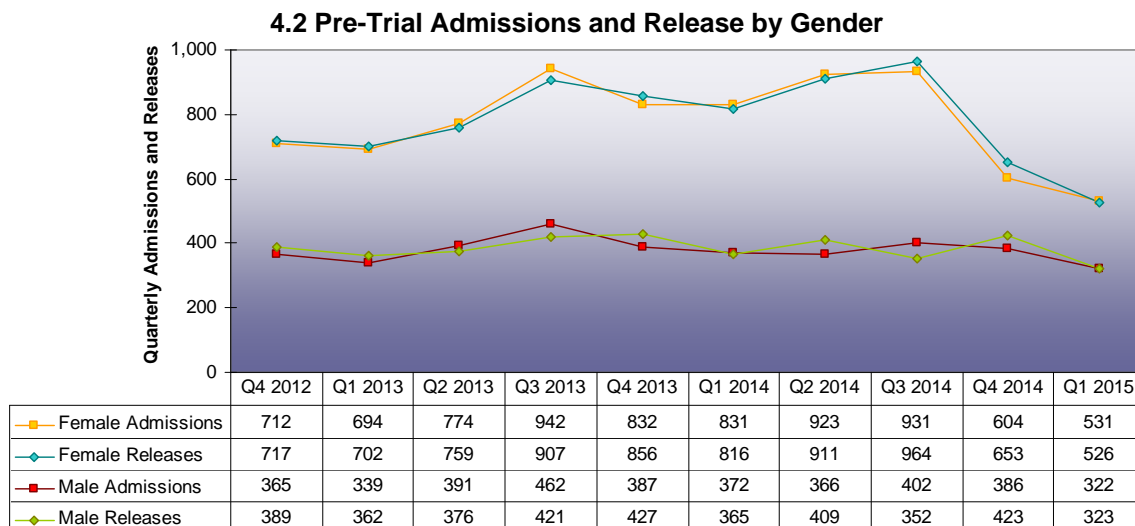


PRE-TRIAL ADMISSIONS AND RELEASES

Pre-trial admissions and releases, Graph 4.1, both saw a sustained jump from the third quarter of 2013 through the third quarter of 2014; following this, the past two quarter saw periods of decline to the lowest level of the trend period. Pre-trial admissions averaged 1,157 detainees per quarter and releases averaged 1,166, with a cumulative difference decrease of 9 pre-trial detainees by the end of the trend period. The fourth quarter of 2014 saw a notable drop in pre-trial inmates, most notably as Worcester County shifted its county, pre-trial females to the Western Massachusetts Regional Women's Correctional Center in Hampden County; this drop continued into the first quarter of 2015.



As seen in Graph 4.2, female pre-trial detainees had more variable pre-trial trends than male detainees, and as they were the majority of pre-trial admissions and releases more strongly influenced the overall trends seen in Graph 4.1. Female detainees had an overall trend closely mimicking the above trends, whereas male detainees saw little change over the trend period. Overall, females had a cumulative difference decrease of 37 detainees and males saw a decrease of 55.



Over the trend period, Table 4.3, the majority of male pre-trial admissions came from the counties of Suffolk, with 54.0% of admissions, and Middlesex, with 32.2%. Both of these counties saw decreases during the first quarter of 2015, Suffolk by 21.6% and Middlesex by 22.5%. Male, pre-trial admissions jurisdiction population saw little overall change during the trend period; although the first quarter of 2015 had the lowest admission rate of the trend period.

4.3 Male Pre-Trial Admissions by Jurisdiction

	Q4 2012	Q1 2013	Q2 2013	Q3 2013	Q4 2013	Q1 2014	Q2 2014	Q3 2014	Q4 2014	Q1 2015	Total
Suffolk	169	196	230	249	193	217	197	216	213	167	2,047
Middlesex	141	104	101	150	130	106	130	130	129	100	1,221
Out-of-State	25	16	19	20	18	18	14	13	16	19	178
Worcester	9	9	11	9	17	13	12	11	5	10	106
Federal	10	5	6	9	5	6	0	9	4	1	55
Plymouth	6	4	9	13	14	7	3	10	9	10	85
Bristol	1	2	8	4	2	1	2	6	3	7	36
Essex	3	3	3	2	2	2	1	3	5	1	25
Norfolk	0	0	3	3	5	1	4	3	2	5	26
Barnstable	1	0	0	3	0	0	3	1	0	1	9
Hampden	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2
Berkshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Mass Parole	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Franklin	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	365	339	391	462	387	372	366	402	386	322	3,792

As seen in table 4.4, 98.9% of female pre-trials came from the counties of Essex, Middlesex, Worcester, Plymouth, or Norfolk: 28.6% from Essex, 22.8% from Middlesex, 19.7% from Worcester, 14.0% from Plymouth, and 13.8% from Norfolk. Over the trend period, most of the counties tended to be fairly steady. The most notable trend change was Worcester, which had a quarterly average of 18.5% of the female pre-trial admissions for the trend period saw a precipitous drop during the past two quarters, with 0.5% in the fourth quarter of 2014, and a rate of 0.2% during the first quarter of 2015. This was due to the aforementioned shift of those Worcester pre-trials to Hampden County.

4.4 Female Pre-Trial Admissions by Jurisdiction

	Q4 2012	Q1 2013	Q2 2013	Q3 2013	Q4 2013	Q1 2014	Q2 2014	Q3 2014	Q4 2014	Q1 2015	Total
Essex	201	180	209	245	244	249	259	263	188	188	2,226
Middlesex	143	161	173	219	184	151	201	217	175	148	1,772
Worcester	161	155	189	216	196	201	221	187	3	1	1,530
Plymouth	94	104	97	127	105	93	117	136	115	102	1,090
Norfolk	110	90	99	124	97	127	114	118	113	79	1,071
Suffolk	1	0	1	0	1	2	5	4	4	5	23
Federal	1	1	2	2	1	3	3	4	2	4	23
Out-of-State	0	1	1	5	2	2	1	0	3	3	18
Bristol	1	2	1	1	1	0	1	2	0	1	10
Hampden	0	0	1	1	0	2	0	0	1	0	5
Barnstable	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Mass Parole	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	2
Berkshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Franklin	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	2
Total	712	694	774	942	832	831	923	931	604	531	7,774

Appendix

Notes and Definitions

Note: This report examines admission and release trends over the past ten quarters for the Massachusetts Department of Correction (MA DOC). Unless otherwise stated, all trends in this report refer to the MA DOC jurisdiction population.

Note: Admission and Release data for this report was gathered in April of 2015. Numbers in this report may vary slightly from numbers in other reports due to the continuous updating of data and information in the Inmate Management System.

Admissions	Inmates or detainees committed to a MA DOC facility as a “new court commitment”, “parole violator”, “transfer”, “probation violator”, “pre-trial detainee”, a “civil commitment” or other admission through legal means. “Other” admissions include: “Re-admit from Court Release” and “Return from Escape”.
Pre-Trial Detainee	An individual who is detained prior to trial, but not yet convicted of a crime to include male and female county detainees, male county detainees transferred to state facilities under Massachusetts General Law Chapter 276, section 52A, and federal detainees (both male and female).
Civil Commitment or “Civil”	The involuntary commitment of an individual via legal means to incarcerate an individual against their will.
Crime Lab Releases	Issues regarding accuracy of testing at the Hinton Crime Lab resulted in several hundred releases “from court”, primarily during the months of September-November, 2012.
Criminally Sentenced	An individual who has been found guilty of a criminal offense through legal means, and is required to be incarcerated.
Custody Population	An individual is considered to be in Massachusetts DOC custody when they are being held in a Massachusetts DOC facility.
Expiration of Sentence (Release)	An inmate is discharged from his sentence at the expiration of his term, less any statutory or earned good time. Statutory good time was eliminated for all offenses committed after June 30, 1994, due to the enactment of the “Truth in Sentencing” law.
HOC	House of Correction, i.e. county jail.
Jurisdiction Population	An individual is considered to be under Massachusetts DOC jurisdiction when the Commonwealth has legal authority over the individual regardless of where the inmate is being held to include those incarcerated in Massachusetts DOC facilities as well as those housed in correctional facilities outside of the Massachusetts DOC (Massachusetts Houses of Correction, other state’s correctional facilities and the Federal Bureau of Prisons).
MA DOC	Massachusetts Department of Correction, i.e. state prison.

Parole (Releases)

Inmates released on parole are under the supervision of parole while in the community and may be re-incarcerated for violating the terms of their supervision. Unless otherwise specified, parole to other authority may include: "Parole to Out of State Sentence", "Parole to Federal Authority", "Parole to Immigration", "Parole to From & After HOC Sentence", "Parole to Warrant", "Parole to From & After DOC Sentence", or "Parole to Civil Commitment". "Other" releases include: "HABEAS to Court – Received Forthwith Sentence", "Escape", "Death", "Court Release – Sentence Revoked", "Release to From and After at DOC", and "Release from Weekend Sentence".

Probation

Probation is a court-ordered sanction placed on a person convicted of a crime. The offender is allowed to remain in the community under the strict supervision of a probation officer.

Release to Street

A release to street occurs when an inmate is released from the custody of the Massachusetts DOC by way of parole or discharge to the street. Conditions warranting a release to street include: Parole, Good Conduct Discharge (GCD), Expiration of Sentence, and court release.

Releases

A release occurs when an inmate is released from the custody of the Massachusetts DOC by way of expiration of sentence, parole, a non-DOC release to other jurisdiction, a court release or other legal release from the custody of MA DOC.